CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for communication between a plurality of devices remotely connected via a network, comprising:

within an existing instant messaging session on a first user device associated with a first user, responsive to user input, initiating a new topic session;

within the existing instant messaging session on the first user device, responsive to user input on the first user device, selectively causing the new topic session to be replicated on secondary user devices associated with the first user; and

providing a user interface on the first user device which is capable of distinguishing between data intended for the existing and new sessions.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and secondary user devices include a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a cellular phone, a personal digital assistant, and a fax machine.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the user input is performed by selecting a button in a messaging window.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining if the recipient has more than one device capable of receiving instant messages;

selectively sending the message to the recipient's devices.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the user conducts an instant messaging session which was initiated on the first user device with the recipient using one of the secondary devices.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein selectively causing the new topic session to be replicated on a second user device is performed by sending the message to all of the user's secondary devices.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein selectively causing the new topic session to be replicated on a second user device is performed by sending the message to the user's secondary devices in a priority sequence until a receipt notification is obtained.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface on the first user device distinguishes between data intended for the existing and new sessions by organizing the data in a topical manner.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein header information in the message indicates that the message is to be replicated on particular secondary user devices associated with the first user.

10. The method of claim 4, wherein header information in the message indicates that the message is to be replicated on particular secondary user devices associated with the recipient.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the user may update the header information in an outgoing message.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one participant in the instant messaging session has a capability to display multiple threads of conversation in multiple devices, and at least another participant in the instant messaging session does not have the capability to display multiple threads of conversation in multiple devices.

13. The method of claim 4, wherein the message received at a recipient device may be forwarded to another recipient device.

14. A data processing system for communication between a plurality of devices remotely connected via a network, comprising:

means for initiating a new topic session within an existing instant messaging session on a first user device associated with a first user in response to user input;

means for selectively causing the new topic session to be replicated on secondary user devices associated with the first user within the existing instant messaging

session on the first user device in response to user input on the first user device; and

means for providing a user interface on the first user device which is capable of distinguishing between data intended for the existing and new sessions.

15. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the first and secondary user devices include a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a cellular phone, a personal digital assistant, and a fax machine.

16. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the user input is performed by selecting a button in a messaging window.

17. The data processing system of claim 14, further comprising:

means for determining if the recipient has more than one device capable of receiving instant messages;

means for selectively sending the message to the recipient's devices.

18. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the user conducts an instant messaging session which was initiated on the first user device with the recipient using one of the secondary devices.

19. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein selectively causing the new topic session to be replicated on a second user device is performed by

sending the message to all of the user's secondary devices.

20. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein selectively causing the new topic session to be replicated on a second user device is performed by sending the message to the user's secondary devices in a priority sequence until a receipt notification is obtained.

21. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the user interface on the first user device distinguishes between data intended for the existing and new sessions by organizing the data in a topical manner.

22. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein header information in the message indicates that the message is to be replicated on particular secondary user devices associated with the first user.

23. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein header information in the message indicates that the message is to be replicated on particular secondary user devices associated with the recipient.

24. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the user may update the header information in an outgoing message.

25. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein at least one participant in the instant messaging session has a capability to display multiple threads of conversation in multiple devices, and at least another participant in the instant messaging session does not have the capability to display multiple threads of conversation in multiple devices.

26. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the message received at a recipient device may be forwarded to another recipient device.

27. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for communication between a plurality of devices remotely connected via a network, comprising:

first instructions for initiating a new topic session within an existing instant messaging session on a first user device associated with a first user in response to user input,;

second instructions for selectively causing the new topic session to be replicated on secondary user devices associated with the first user within the existing instant messaging session on the first user device in response to user input on the first user device,; and

third instructions for providing a user interface on the first user device which is capable of distinguishing between data intended for the existing and new sessions.

28. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the first and secondary user devices include a desktop

computer, a laptop computer, a cellular phone, a personal digital assistant, and a fax machine.

29. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the user input is performed by selecting a button in a messaging window.

30. The computer program product of claim 27, further comprising:

determining if the recipient has more than one device capable of receiving instant messages;

selectively sending the message to the recipient's devices.

31. The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the user conducts an instant messaging session which was initiated on the first user device with the recipient using one of the secondary devices.

32. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein selectively causing the new topic session to be replicated on a second user device is performed by sending the message to all of the user's secondary devices.

33. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein selectively causing the new topic session to be replicated on a second user device is performed by sending the message to the user's secondary devices in a

priority sequence until a receipt notification is obtained.

34. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the user interface on the first user device distinguishes between data intended for the existing and new sessions by organizing the data in a topical manner.

35. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein header information in the message indicates that the message is to be replicated on particular secondary user devices associated with the first user.

36. The computer program product of claim 30, wherein header information in the message indicates that the message is to be replicated on particular secondary user devices associated with the recipient.

37. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the user may update the header information in an outgoing message.

38. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein at least one participant in the instant messaging session has a capability to display multiple threads of conversation in multiple devices, and at least another participant in the instant messaging session does not have the capability to display multiple threads of conversation in multiple devices.

39. The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the message received at a recipient device may be forwarded to another recipient device.